

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 EB-07 OMB-01 MC-02 /068 W

----- 082880

R 181101Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO USMISSION NATO

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECSTATE WASHDC 4807

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CINCUSAFE

USDOC WASHDC

DA WASHDC

CDR 32D AIR DEF COMD KAISERLAUTERN

CDR WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE NMEX

CRRUSAMC ALEXANDRIA VA

CDRUSAADC FT BLISS TEX

CDRUSAMICOM REDSTONE ARS AL

CHMAAG ATHENS

CHMAAG BONN

CHMAAG BRUSSELS

CHMAAG COPENHAGEN

CHMAAG PARIS

CHMAAG THE HAGUE

CHUSNHKO PARIS

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE UTILIZATION BY UNITED STATES AIR AND NAVAL FORCES

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OF WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN FIRING RANGES

REF: USNATO 6601

1. WITH LIMITED INFORMATION WE HAVE IN THIS MATTER (WHICH WE AGREE IS INDEED COMPLEX) WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO SOLICIT VIEWS OF COMPETENT ITALIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

2. AFTER SEVERAL NON-STARTERS WE WERE DIRECTED TO LT. GEN. PIO SALVIOLI MARIANI, PRESIDENT OF THE CONSIGLIO TECNICO-SCIENTIFICO DE LA DIFESA (DEFENSE TECHNICAL-SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL), WHO HAD BEEN SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF TO RESPOND TO OUR INQUIRY. IT TURNED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT GENERAL SALVAIOLI HAD NOT READ THE LETTER FROM THE US MEMBER OF THE NHPLO BOARD OF DIRECTORS (TRANSMITTED REFTEL; HIS AIDE WHO HAD READ IT FOUND IT CONFUSING. WE WERE INFORMED THAT TO THE BEST OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON THE QUESTION OF HAWK ACCEPTANCE FIRINGS. AS TO THE QUESTION OF WIDER USE OF SALTO DI QUIRRA; THAT WAS OPEN, AS SEVERAL OF THE ALLIES INCLUDING THE US WERE ALREADY USING THE RANGE. SALVIOLI ASSERTED HOWEVER THAT IT WOULD LIKELY BE POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE HEAVIER USE OF THE RANGE, BUT THE MOD WOULD NEED A MORE SPECIFIC AND DETAILED REQUEST BEFORE IT COULD RESPOND. HE DESCRIBED THE RANGE AS MODERN AND ADEQUATE IN ALL RESPECTS BUT TWO: THE LACK OF SUPERSONIC TARGETS AND THE LACK OF A DOUBLE GUIDANCE SYSTEM. IN ANY EVENT, HE INSISTED, HE COULD NOT REALLY SPECULATE ON GREATER USE OF THE RANGE WITHOUT A MORE DETAILED PROPOSAL OUTLINING OUR SPECIFIC NEEDS. HE SUGGESTED TOO, THAT WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT IN TERMS OF USE FOR AIR-TO-AIR TARGET EXERCISES, WE WOULD HAVE TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE ON THE USE OF THE NEAREST ADEQUATE AIRFIELD AT CAGLIARI.

3. AFTER BEING BRIEFED ON THE CONTENT OF THE LETTER, SALVIOLI EXPRESSED SOME CONFUSION OVER THE USE OF THE WORD "COOPERATION." IT SUGGESTED, IN HIS VIEW, IGNORANCE OF THE RATHER BROAD LEVEL OF COOPERATION ALREADY UNDER WAY AT SALTO DI QUIRRA WHICH IS ALREADY IN USE BY THE FRG, DENMARK, NORWAY AND OF COURSE THE US, INCLUDING THE SIXTH FLEET. HE WAS NOT CLEAR, NOR WERE WE ABLE TO ENLIGHTEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIM FROM OUR LIMITED INFORMATION, AS TO THE FULL EXTENT OF ADDED COOPERATION WE HAD IN MIND. INDEED HE ASKED, WERE WE SUGGESTING THE CONVERSION OF SALTO DI QUIRRA TO A NATO INSTALLATION? HE WOULD NOT DISMISS THAT NOTION OUT OF HAND BUT SAID THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL THAT HAD TO BE DONE TO ACHIEVE THAT.

4. COMMENT: IF INDEED AS GENERAL SALVIOLI ASSERTED, THE

QUESTION OF THE USE OF SALTO DI QUIRRA IN HWAK ACCEPTANCE FIRINGS
HAS BEEN RESOLVED, THERE IS LITTLE THIS MISSION CAN, LACKING
MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON OUR DESIDERATA, CONTRIBUTE TO
THIS EXCHANGE. FROM THIS EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, IT DOES SEEM
APPARENT THAT IN COMPLEX TECHNICAL ISSUES OF THIS TYPE WHICH
INVOLVE ITALY, A MORE PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE CAN BE CARRIED OUT
WITH THEIR REPRESENTATION OF EXPERTS AT BRUSSELS.VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, AIR FORCE, MILITARY BASES, MISSILE TESTS, MISSILE RANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME18468
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750440-0240
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751227/aaaaaxyv.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE UTILIZATION BY UNITED STATES AIR AND NAVAL FORCES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: MARR, NATO
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006